

Visitor Guide: Early Summer 2015

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



Loving a land of drought

This year brings both challenge and celebration to Sequoia and Kings Canyon, and we welcome you to embrace them both!

The challenge? Arid summers are a way of life here, but recent winters have brought little snow. Imagine an already dry landscape after four full years of drought. Fuel moisture (a measure of how much water remains in downed twigs, branches, and logs) has dropped to record lows. Dead tree-tops interrupt a usually evergreen forest canopy.

How does one embrace something like this? By accepting the challenge and taking care not to add to its difficulties:

- Be aware that a tossed match, campfire sparks, a hot muffler, or overheated brakes can easily start a fire. Take pride in your efforts to prevent that from happening. Understand that fire managers may

still need to use planned fire, sparingly, to reduce wildfire risk.

- Understand that campfire restrictions (see back page) serve to protect this forest. Explore other ways to break bread and linger with friends and family in the serenity of this place.

- Conserve water within the parks and beyond. The more we save, the more goes to the life around us, and the longer we can enjoy park facilities with limited water sources.

- Admire the ability of life to persist and, where it does not, the ability of other life to pick up where it left off. Enjoy the cackling, drilling woodpeckers that gain new feeding places when trees succumb. Celebrate that cavity nesters such as flying squirrels, the rare Pacific fisher, owls, and many other animals will make their nests in these trees.

So what's to celebrate? Three in-

spiring anniversaries add a shine to this dry year! Sequoia National Park marks 125 years of protecting this landscape and the people who love it. The small, exquisite General Grant Grove National Park became a park just two weeks later, encompassing more sequoia monarchs.

That was in 1890. Fifty years later, Congress designated Kings Canyon National Park. It swept Grant Grove into an expansive wilderness park of Sierran peaks and canyons. That was 75 years ago.

For all these years the parks have dazzled generations of us with beauty and awed us with challenge. They've taught us to look closer, think bigger, and celebrate even the toughest aspects of Nature's nature.

Embracing both the celebrations and the challenges lets us enjoy and respect the wildness protected in these national parks.

Look inside for:

Activities: programs.....	5
Bears & food storage	11
Campgrounds	4
Exploring: Sequoia NP.....	6
Kings Canyon NP & USFS..	7
Facilities & hours	8-9
Fire restrictions	12
Lodging	5
Map of park roads	8
Nature & ecosystems	3
Phone numbers	2
Rules & regs: some basics.....	9
Road information	12
Safety	10
Visitor centers	2
Wilderness camping & permits	11